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12 January 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: STAFF CHIEFS A, C, D, E
FOREIGN DIVISION CHIEFS M, P, R, S, T, W, Z
CHIEFS ICS, TRD, BLC

SUBJECT: Draft of Basic Assumptions

1. The ADSO has directed Staff B to prepare for his consideration a statement of Basic Assumptions, with reference to which OSO shall conduct its planning and operational activities. Attached are tentative Basic Assumptions. You are requested to return your comments and suggestions for additions or modifications to Staff B by 19 January 1951, at which time a statement of assumptions reflecting the consolidated views of OSO will be drawn up and presented to ADSO.

2. Since the attached assumptions are tentative and unofficial, they will not be discussed outside OSO without prior clearance of ADSO, EXO, or Staff B. Subsequently, the revised assumptions will be forwarded by ADSO to appropriate offices of CIA for their comment and suggestions. Eventually, it is intended that there be obtained the comments or confirmation of the Department of Defense, JCS, or the National Security Council as appropriate.

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Chief, Staff B.

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Basic Assumptions/2
(Tentative, as of 12 January 1951)

The following assumptions have been made for internal OSO planning and operational purposes:

1. The Soviet Union will precipitate a world war.
2. D-Day (the commencement of general hostilities) will occur ~~before the end of 1952~~ *on or about 1 July 1952*.
3. Disruptive action stimulated by the Soviet Union will take place in a number of peripheral areas prior to D-Day.
4. The continental United States will be subjected to atomic attack, conventional bombing, and sabotage.
5. The United States will have no formal notice of the commencement of any aggressive action by the USSR.
6. The Soviet Union and its satellites will be opposed by the United States, the other Atlantic Pact nations, and certain other nations.
7. CIA will remain essentially a civilian organization.
8. CIA field units in combat areas or theater commands will be attached to military units and will be headed and largely staffed by military personnel.
9. In time of war a proportionately larger OSO effort than at present will be spent in direct support of military activity.
10. The United States and its allies will be denied the use of certain areas as operational and support bases as a result of the Soviet advance. This advance will occur in the following phases:

Phase A (immediately following the outbreak of hostilities)--all of Europe except Norway, Sweden, Spain, Portugal, and the British Isles; Egypt; the entire Middle East area, including the northwest corner of Saudi Arabia; Afghanistan, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, the northern half of the Malay Peninsula, Thailand, Indo-China, Korea, and Hokkaido.

Phase B (D-Day plus approximately 6 months)--all areas specified under Phase A plus Norway, Sweden, Portugal, Spain, the northern part of Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, the Malay Peninsula, Formosa, and Japan (excluding Okinawa).

Phase C (D-Day plus approximately 1 year)--all areas specified under Phases A and B plus all of North Africa south to about the 20th Parallel North; Saudi Arabia; Pakistan, India, Ceylon, Sumatra, and the Philippines (not Okinawa).

Phase D (D-Day plus approximately 18 months)--all areas specified under Phases A, B, and C plus the British Isles; Dakar, Khartoum, and a general area in the Middle East; and Alaska (not Okinawa).

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